

28 September 2021

Re: Linda Klok Multiple Sclerosis Support Letter

To whom it may concern

I am writing this letter to you in support of Linda Klok's application for funding for mobility support, and how this will impact her.

I have met Linda originally a couple of years ago, not long after she got diagnosed with MS. When I originally met Linda one would have never thought she had any form of illness or struggling. I still remember seeing her at an event where she is laughing and having a good time with her daughters, whom at that stage was still young. I clearly remember how she lit up the room having that much fun with her daughters, never have I thought that in a couple of years that would have 180 on her. At that stage I did not know Linda well and didn't see her as often as I do today, as we only had a mutual friend, through who I have learned that she has been silently suffering with MS.

My path with Linda crossed again toward the last quarter of 2020, when I started my own business and Linda helped me with her business knowledge. Towards the end of 2020, I saw Linda almost on a weekly basis. Meeting her again since the last time I saw her having fun with her daughters was a shock as one could physically see the difference MS had on her physical health. Since late 2020, Linda and my professional and personal relationship has grown. I now see Linda not just as a mentor but also a dear friend, with latter being mostly why I am writing this letter to you.

During her mentoring, towards the end of last year Linda has asked me to assist her with her business admin side of work from time to time as a Virtual Assistant as well as signing me up as a sub-contractor if needed.

Towards the second quarter of 2021 Linda's optimism towards her independence have really been affected by her deteriorating health. Linda has approached me in helping her set up systems for her to keep her business going while she is slowly getting weaker. This was something crucial for her as she is losing independence effecting her personal life with her family. Something as small as cooking a meal will tire Linda out drastically, and to be able to hold on to her business a bit longer gives her some sort of rest knowing she can still financially contribute to her household.

Many a times, Linda has confided in me the hardships of living with the debilitating illness MS causing her to second guess her value to her family, friends, clients, and society. Linda is such a role model for so many, mentoring the young and those with small business as she loves nothing more than to see others succeed. Living with MS meant her 100% she can give now to others may only be our 50%, but yet she still does this with a smile on her face. During my times with Linda, I have witnessed her taking calls and be the shoulder for so many other people with their issues. What amazed me the most about witnessing these interactions was that she will always turn around and make it sound like she has it easy.

It is a scary thought when I will see Linda and just the change the last 6 months had in her physical ability. Linda has mentioned she wanted to raise funds for an Omeo which I offered to help with, however when I got invited with for a look and try on these Omeo's it has become apparent to me that this is what she needs in life. Being sent a video of Linda chasing her daughter and the smile

that I have not been seen since that day at the event with her kids brought me to tears. THIS was the Linda I remembered and to see what MS has taken away from her made me want help her even more.

For her to have an Omeo means she can chase her young daughter at the park and give them some memories to hold on to one day. Simple things like going to the beach for good old kiwi fish and chips is all but a dream for her. I am begging you with this letter, please strongly consider her application for funding. I do know there will be so many worthy people, however what Linda gives to others and her community will greatly benefit from this.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to talk about anything.

Sincerely,
Elizna Tinone
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